(c) whether it is also a fact that statutory auditors for the year 1986-87 were given tax audit work during the days when audit reports were being finalised;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether any responsibility for these serious lapses has been fixed; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above—question does not arise.

(c) and (d) The statutory auditors for the year 1986-87 were appointed as Tax Auditors for 1987-88 in February, 1988 for ensuring timely submission of tax audit report to Income-tax authorities.

(e) Does not arise.

Technology for cultivation of potatoes

3118. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Potato Research Institute has developed a new technology for growing potatoes on a large scale;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the new technology developed by the CPRI:

(c) to what extent the above technology would be useful for the small farmers in the country; and

(d) what are the locations and States where this technology would be available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Potato Research Institute has developed new technologies for rapid multiplication of virus tested stocks through sprouts, micropropagation, tuberlet production etc. Sensitive methods for virus detection are also being used. The technology for raising commercial crop by using true potato seed (TPS) has yielded four promising hybrids which are under multilocation trials.

(c) The above technologies would be useful to potato growers as these will help in providing healthy and disease free seeds, which are easy to store and transport. These will also reduce cost of cultivation and release seed tubers for consumption.

(d) Once fully tested, the technologies will be available through out the reduce cost of cultivation and release country.

Appointment of Tax Auditors of NCCF

3119. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M|s. R. K. Sharma and Associates and M|s. K. K. Goel and Associates, Chartered Accountants were appointed as Tax Auditors of NCCF in July, 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the tax audit report submitted by M|s. R. K. Sharma and Associates has highlighted serious irregularities including shortfall of Rs. 9 crore in the stocks; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action has been taken against the erring officials for these irregularities?